

# Harford County Southern County Taskforce Update



Robert Cassilly, County Executive

July 13, 2023

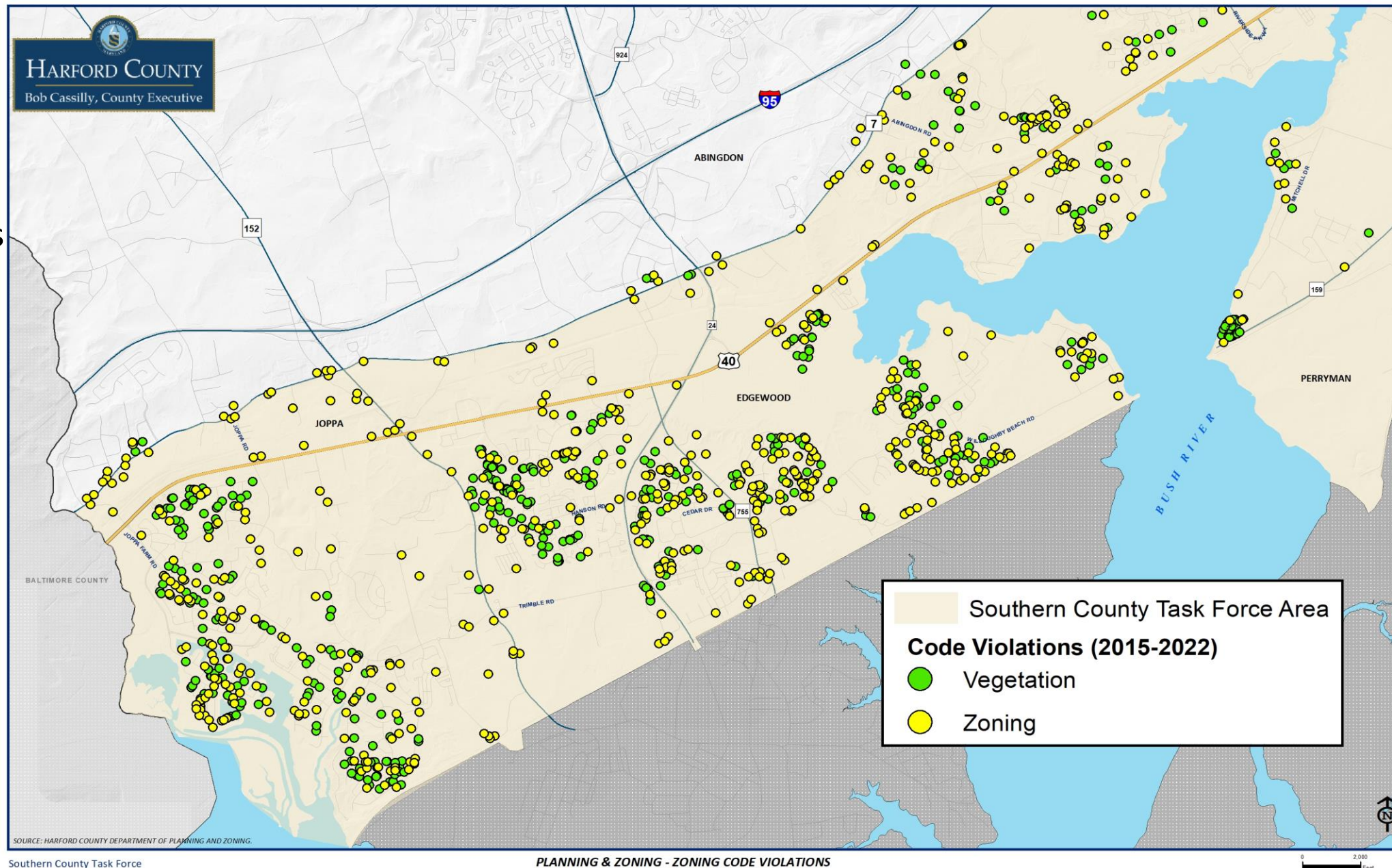
# Planning and Zoning

Shane Grimm, Director  
Department of Planning and Zoning



# SCTF – Planning & Zoning

Numerous  
code  
violations  
in SCTF  
area





# Action Items

- **Proactive and increased enforcement of the Zoning Code**
- Maintain and update SCTF GIS data and mapping
- Integrate Southern County Task Force action items into Master Plan process
- Oversee execution of SCTF action items



# Housing & Community Development

Barbara W. Richardson, Director  
Department of Housing & Community Development



# SCTF - Housing & Community Services

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AREAS

### *CDBG-Eligible and Maryland Sustainable Communities*

Maryland Incentive Zones - Main Street Areas



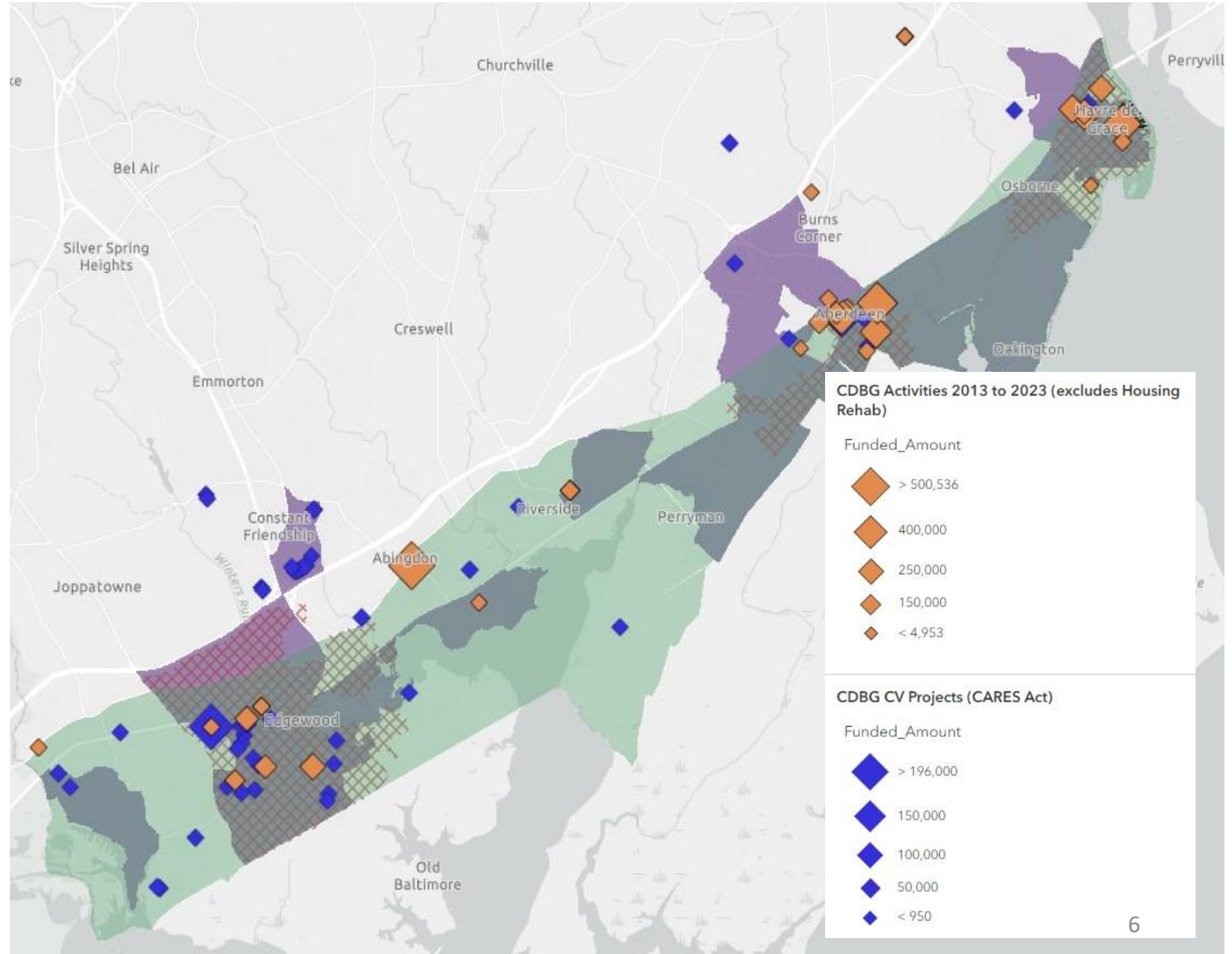
SCTF Boundary



Maryland Incentive Zones - Sustainable Communities



Federal Incentive Zones - Low-Mod Income Areas





# Action Items

- **Reorganize Housing and Community Services** to create enhanced grant writing and grant management capabilities.
- **Expand access to federal and state grants:**
  - Create at least one revitalization project (sticks & bricks) using allocated CDBG funds, to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2024.
  - Apply for FY2025 Sustainable Communities funding at maximum level.
- Create a **long-term projects timeline** that coincides with state and federal grant cycles.
- Expand / develop federal grant funded **home repair program(s)** that target low- to moderate-income homeowners in the SCTF area.



# SCTF - Housing & Community Services

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LIVABILITY ANALYSIS

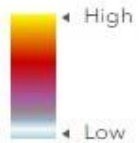
### *Livability Complaints 2013-2023 with concentration of Renter-Occupied Housing*

Owner and Renter Occupied Units Layers - 2023  
Renter Occupied HUs ( ) by Block Groups

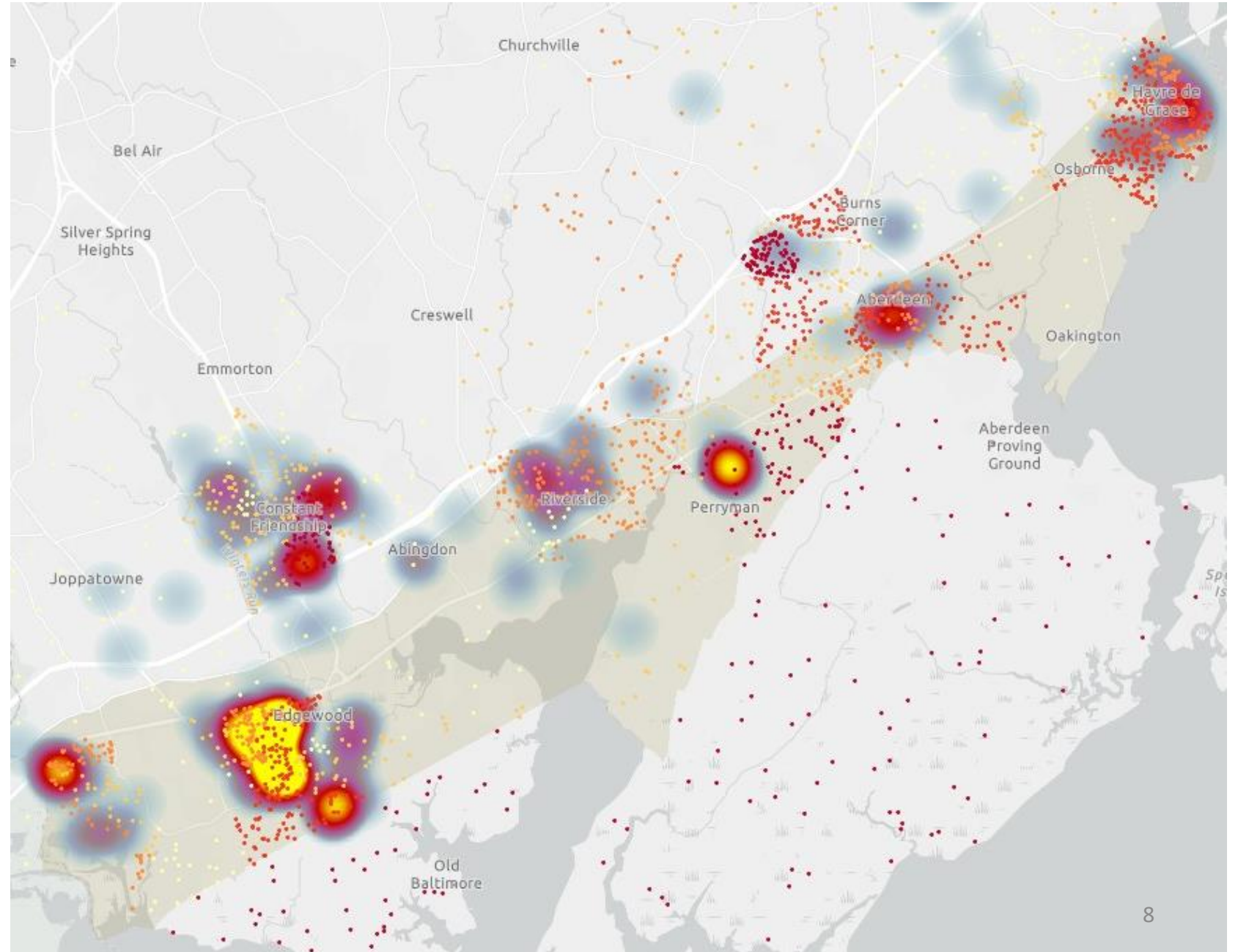
1 Dot = 1 Concentration of Percentage



Annual Action Plan Layers - Livability Complaints Heat Map



SCTF Boundary





# Action Items

- Develop a Harford County **Livability Code** to compel improvements in rental properties.
- Collaborate with Licenses and Permits, Planning & Zoning to **enforce livability code**.
- Use federal HOME dollars to **renovate deficient properties**.





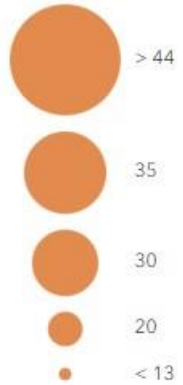
# SCTF - Housing & Community Services

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

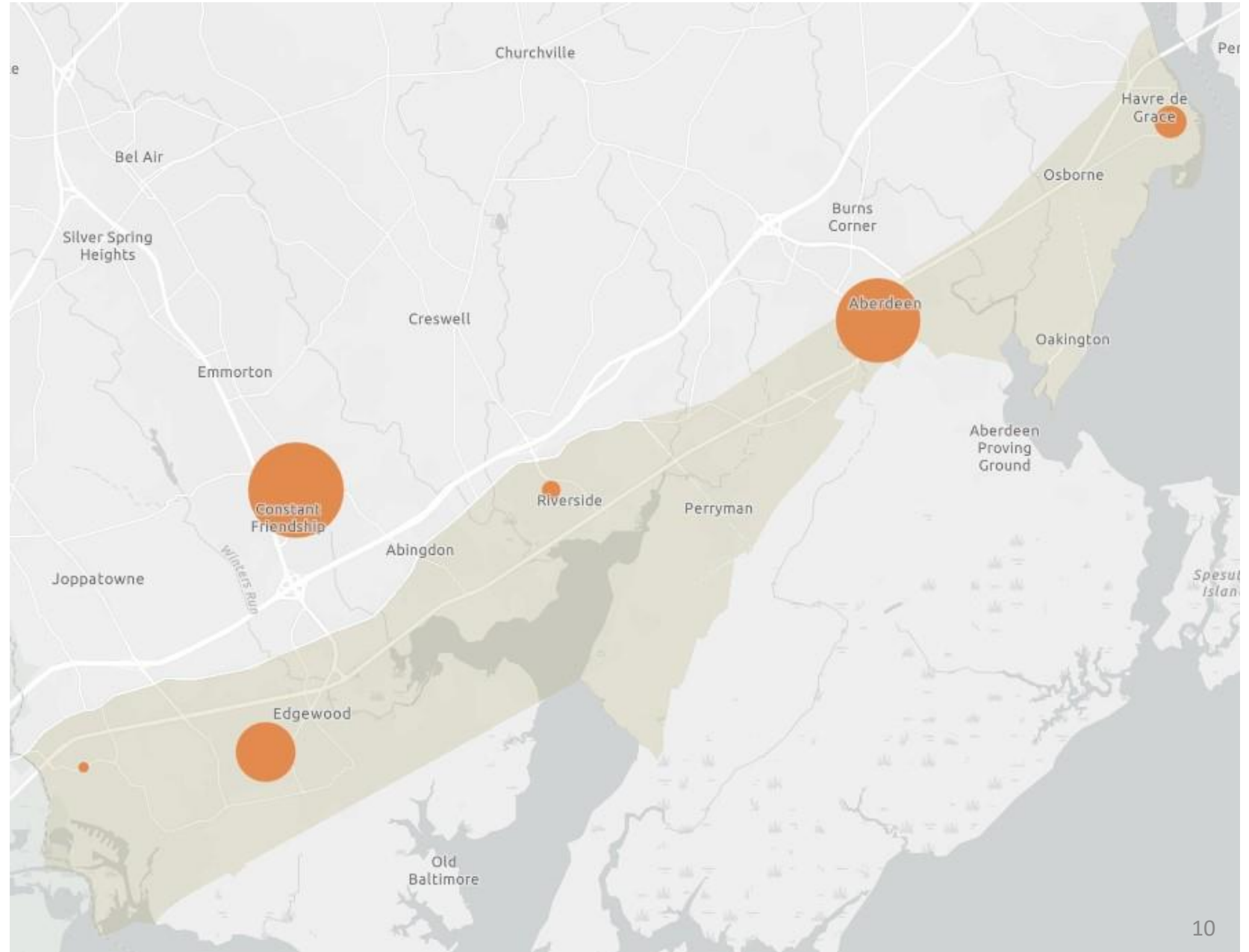
### *First-Time Homebuyers Program Households 2018-2023 by ZIP Code*

First Time Homebuyer Assistance Homes 2018 to 2023

First Time Homebuyers Assisted



SCTF Boundary





# Action Items

Fully leverage Federal and State grants for low income and minority communities to:

- **Increase owner-occupied residences** in SCTF area for moderate-income residents through expanded downpayment assistance.
- **Target federal assistance funds** toward redirecting costs for 1<sup>st</sup> time home buyers.

# Public Works – Highways & Environmental

Joseph Siemek, PE, Director  
Department of Public Works

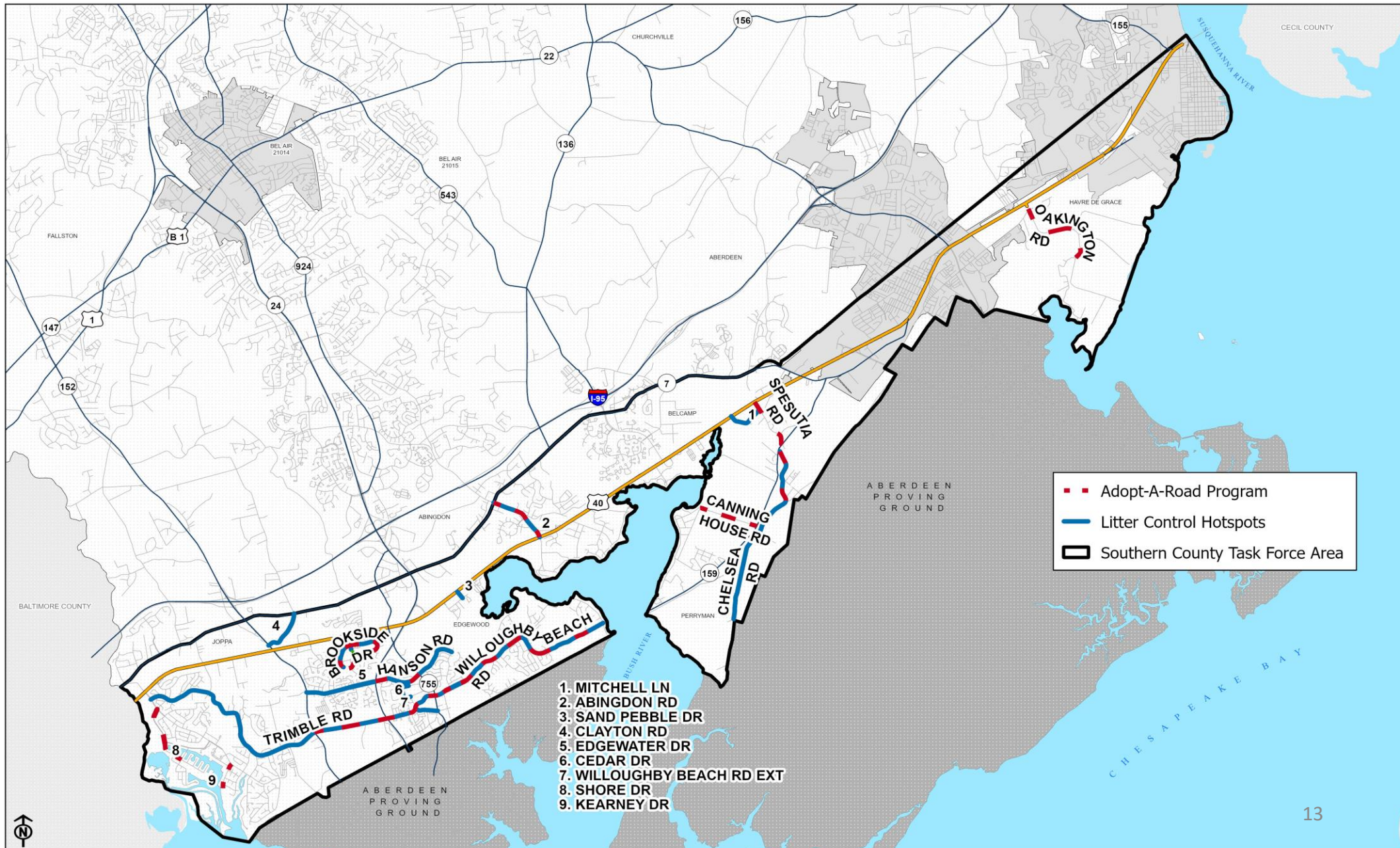




# SCTF – Department of Public Works

ROADSIDE  
LITTER  
HOTSPOTS

ADOPT-A-  
ROAD  
LOCATIONS





# Action Items

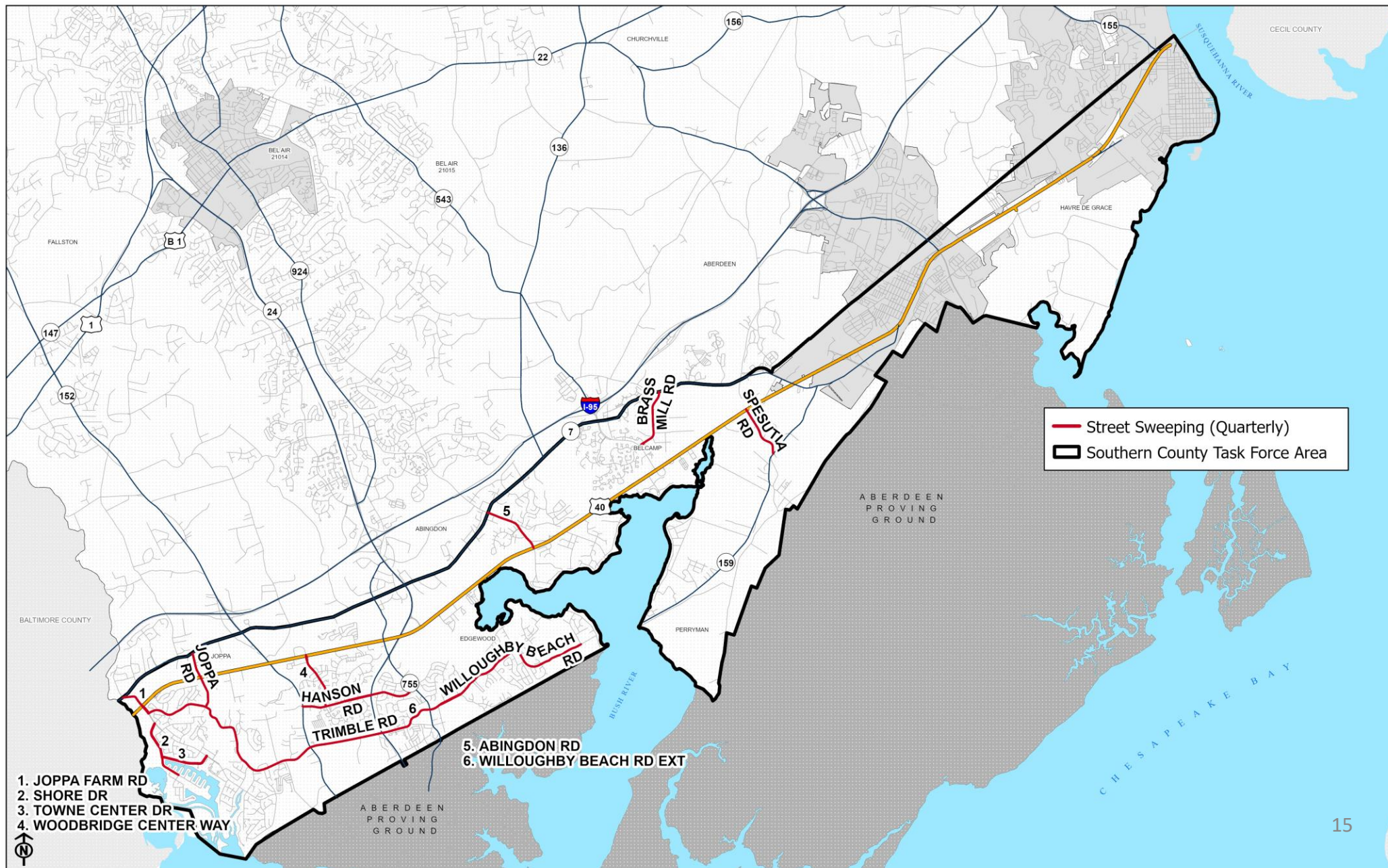
- Provide for additional marketing and promotion of the **County Adopt - a - Road** program to local businesses, non-profits and community groups to enhance community involvement





# SCTF – Department of Public Works

## STREET SWEEPING Program (Quarterly)





# Action Items

- Fund an **expansion of the current street sweeping program** which provides for quarterly sweeping of major and minor roadways in the area.

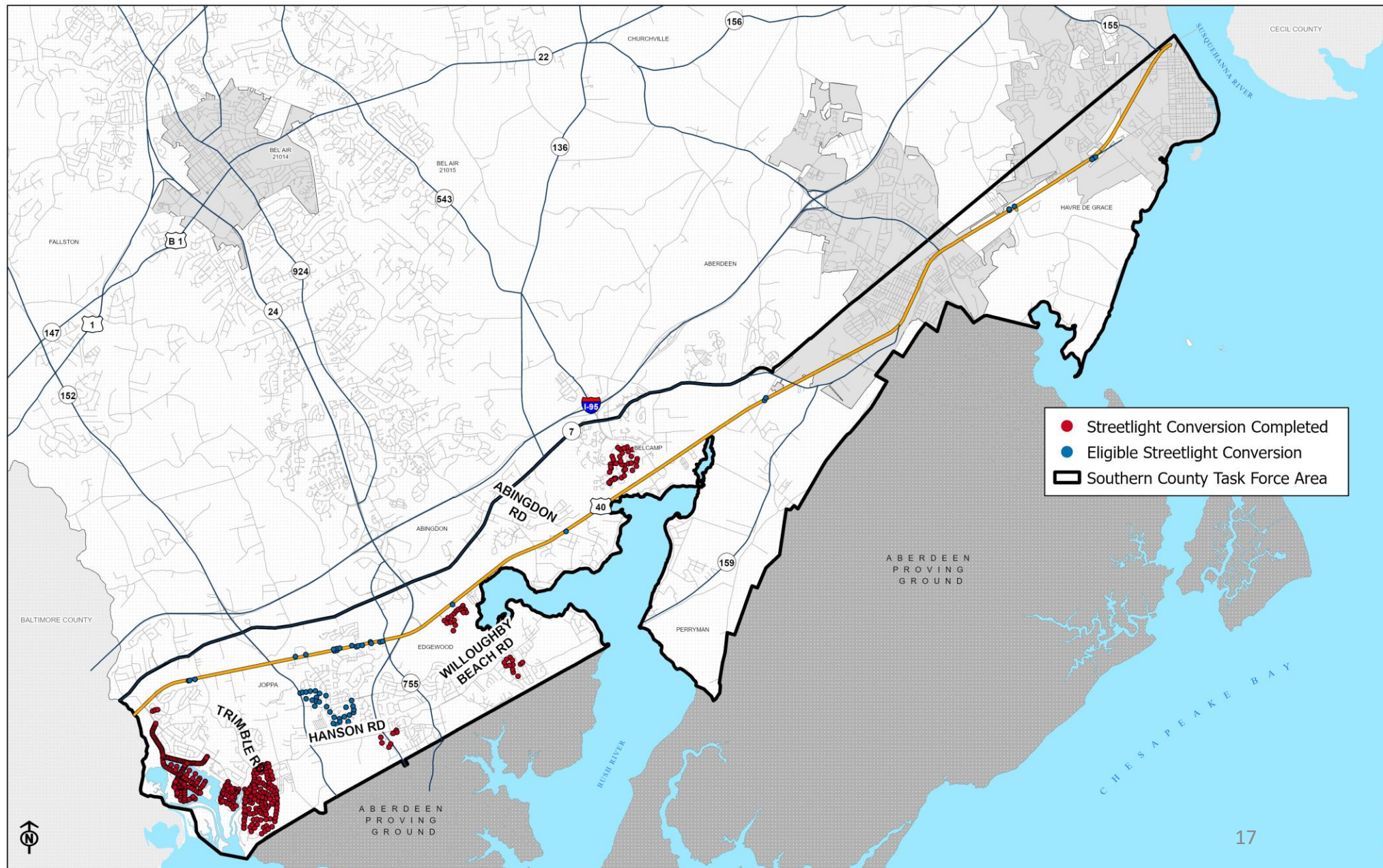




# SCTF – Department of Public Works

## NEIGHBORHOOD STREETLIGHT IMPROVEMENTS -Filling the gaps-

Chart shows  
ongoing progress in  
conversion of  
existing lights  
to LED





# Action Items

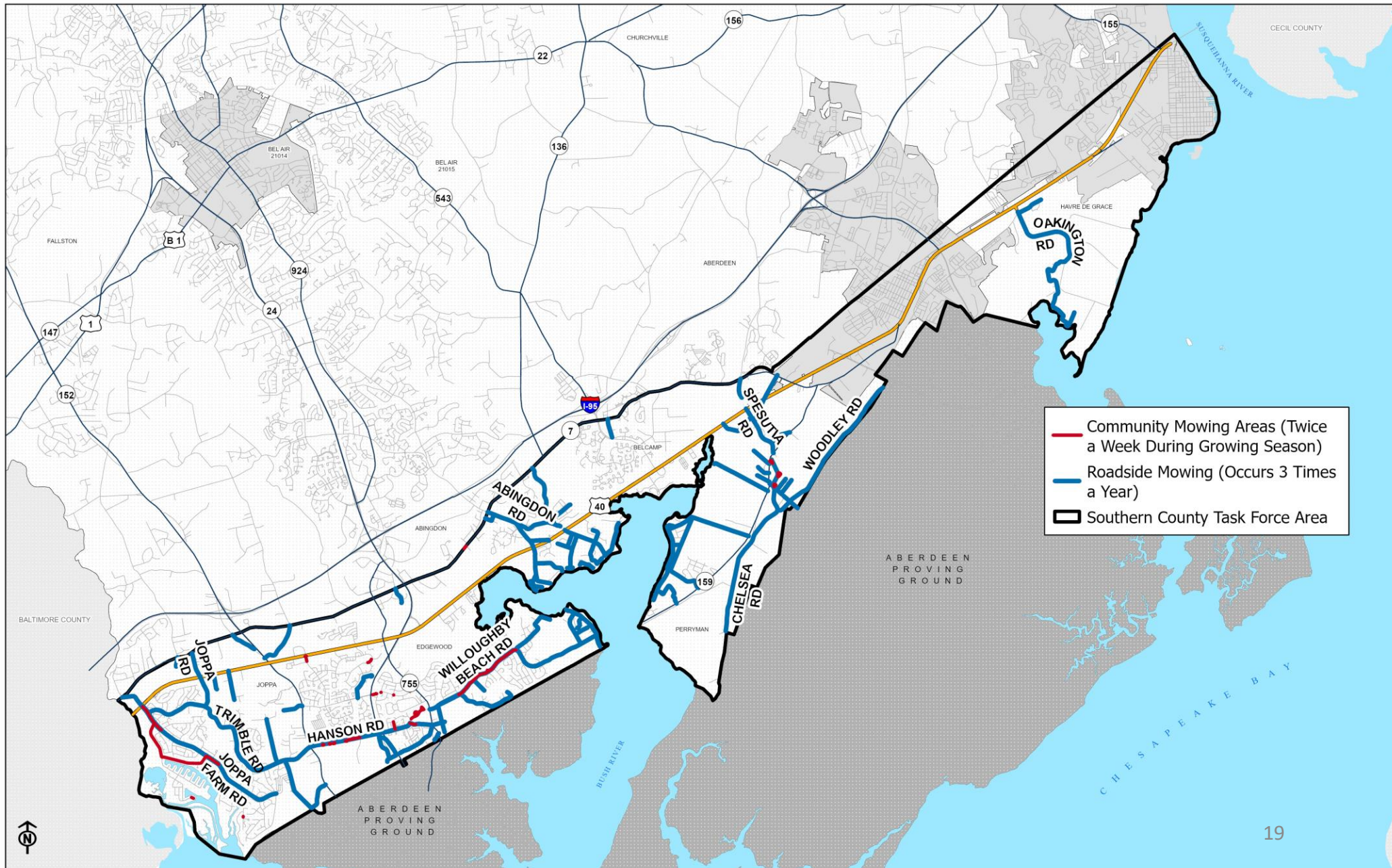
- Work with BGE to execute currently planned LED upgrade projects
- Identify additional eligible locations for LED upgrades
- Work with the community to identify areas with deficient street lighting and initiate street light projects for those areas





## ROADSIDE MOWING PROGRAM

Dressing up  
neighborhoods







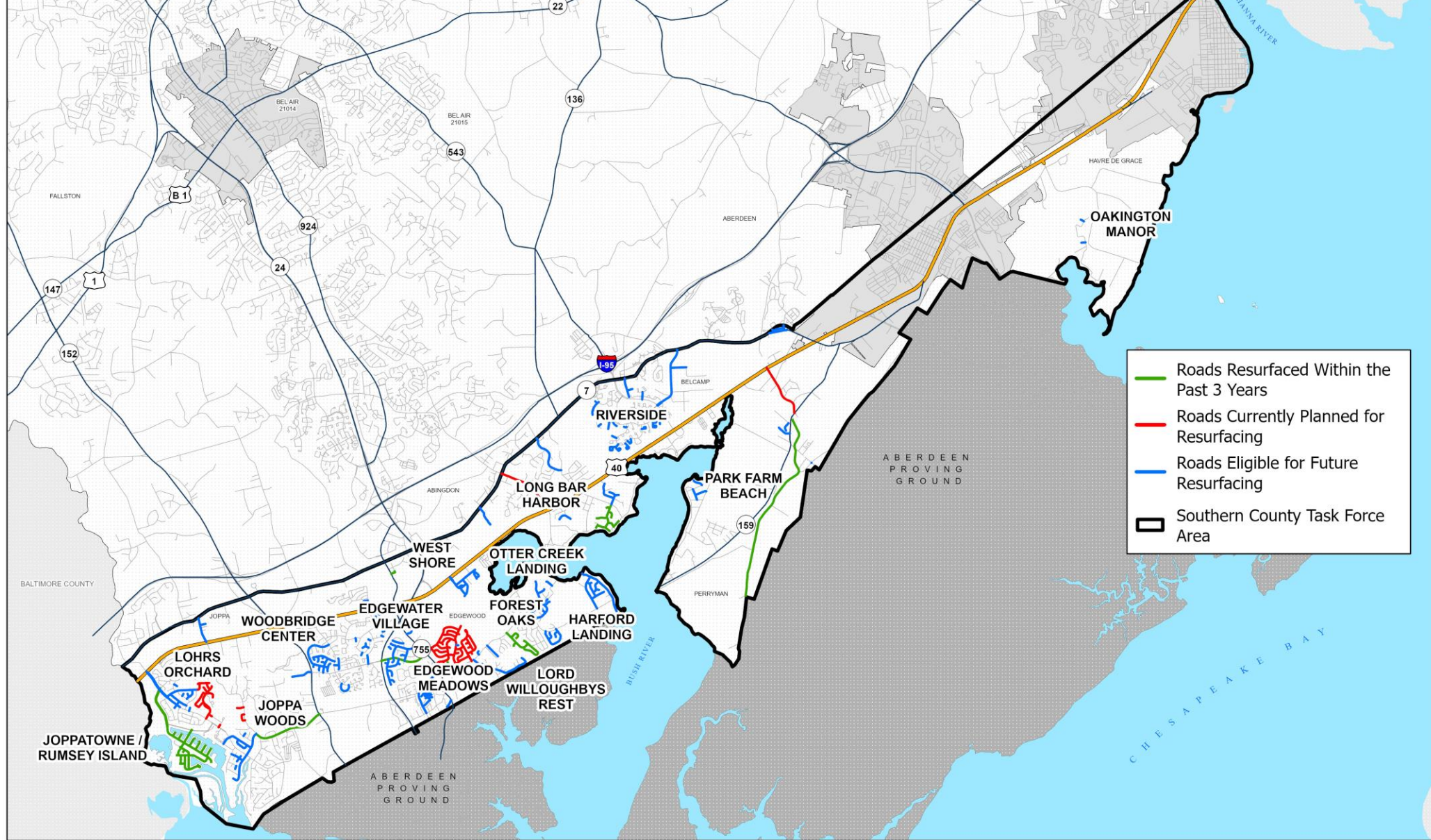
# Action Items

- Assess the current **inventory of roadside mowing** and make adjustments as necessary
- Explore **expansion of the mowing program** to possibly increase mowing frequency



SO

# ROAD RESURFACING





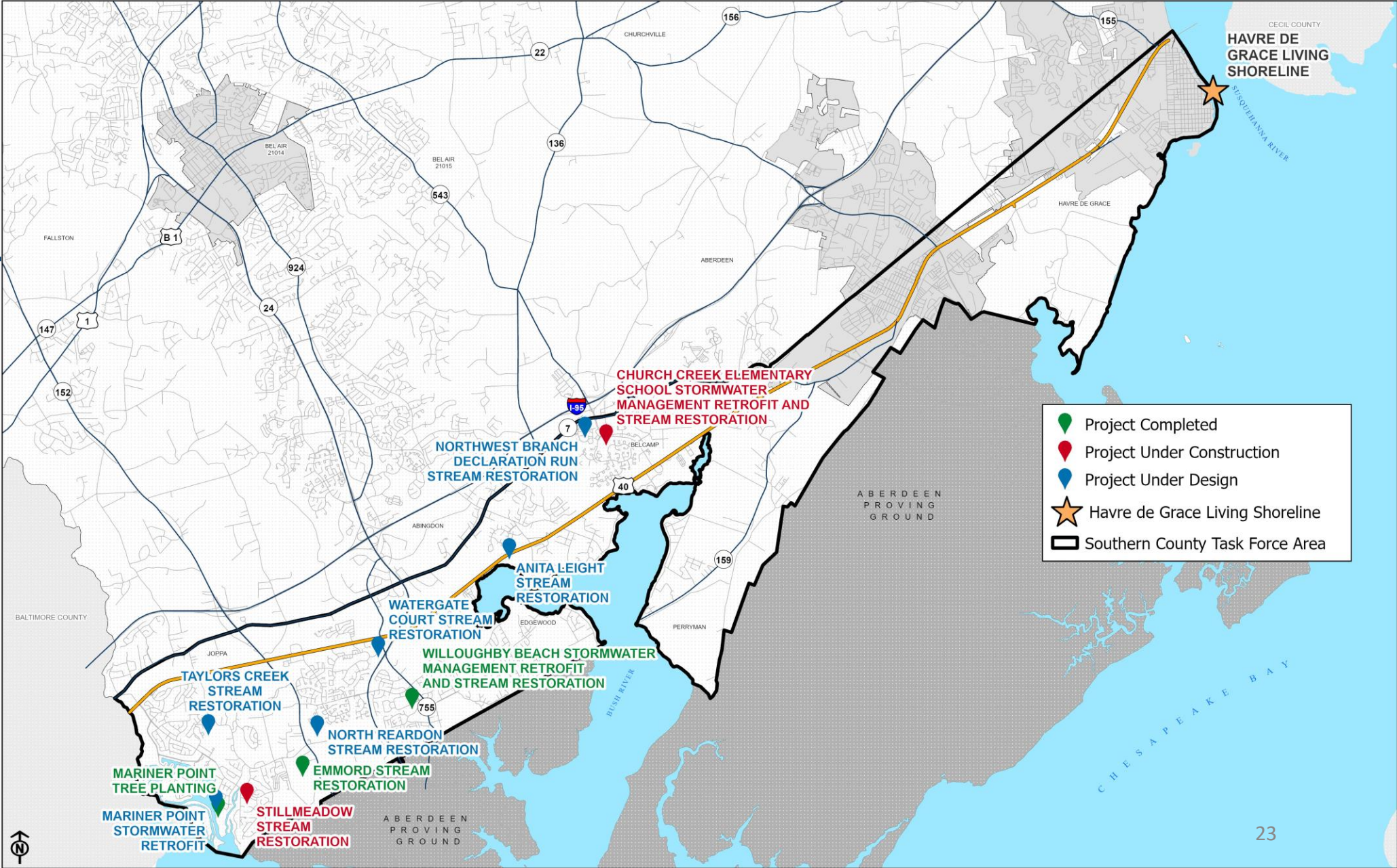
# Action Items

- Execute **planned road resurfacing projects** in the area
- Identify **additional funding** resources to expand projects
- Work with community to identify gaps
- **Private roadways** - develop action plan to address lack of maintenance on private roads





ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESTORATION  
PROJECTS





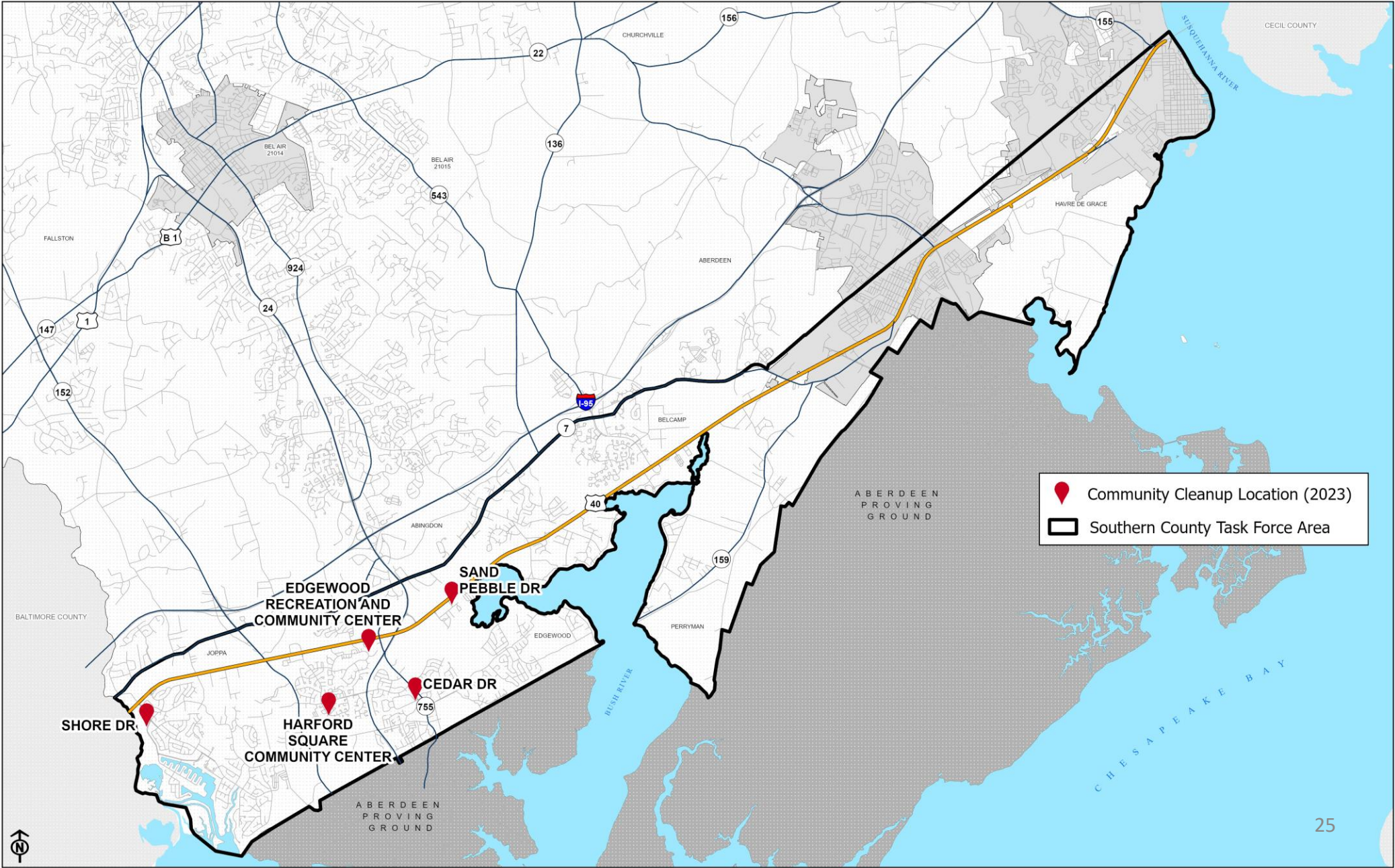
# Action Items

- Execute the planned **stream restoration projects** in the area in order to enhance water quality in the area and meet the County's MS-4 environmental permit requirements
- Work with community to **identify and assess areas for future** County funded projects





COMMUNITY  
CLEANUP  
LOCATIONS





# Action Items

- Continue to **support community cleanup requests** as resources allow
- **Create a formal, on-line program** to support community cleanup requests and approvals

# Public Works – Water & Sewer

Joseph Siemek, PE, Director  
Department of Public Works

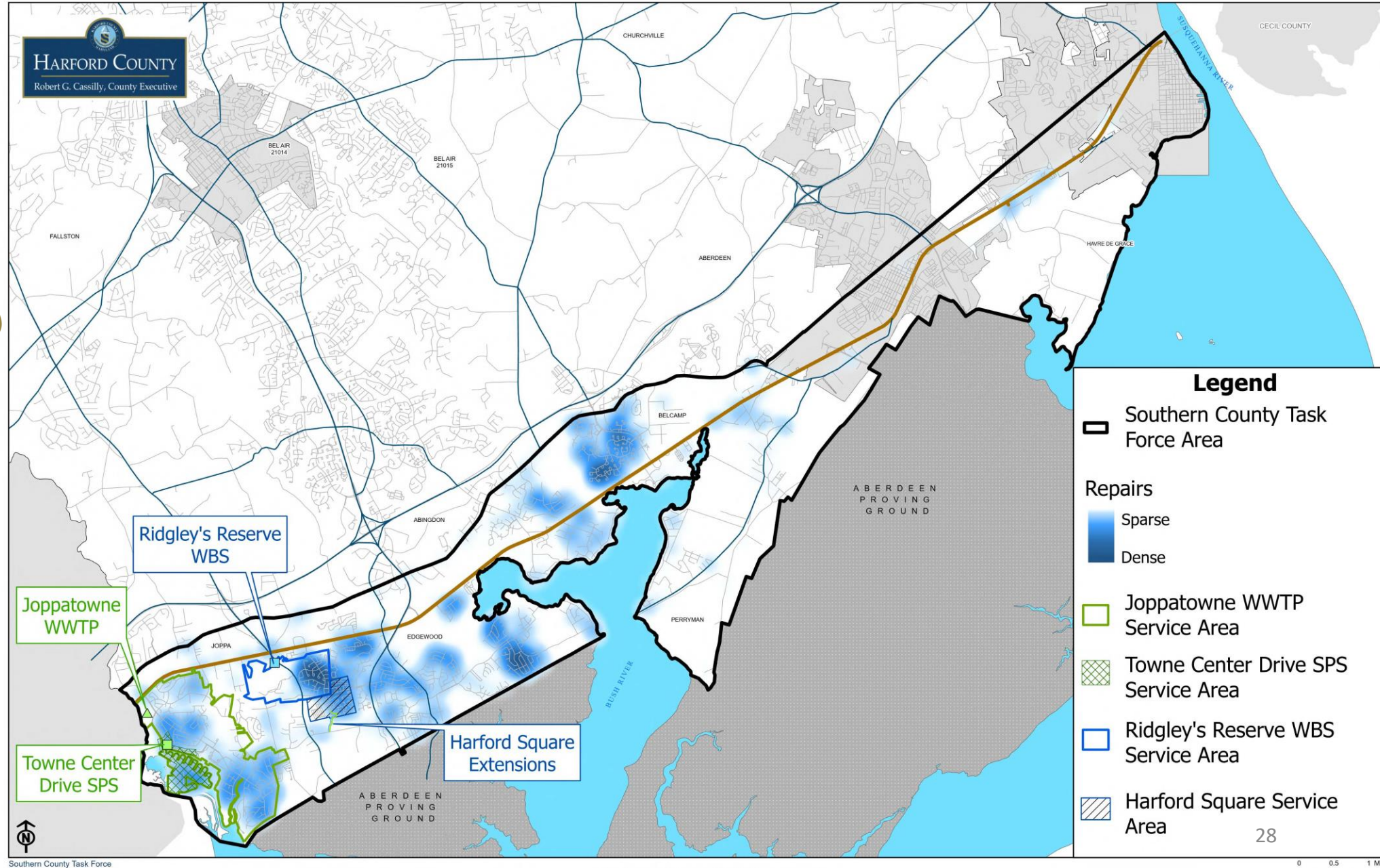




# SCTF – Department of Public Works

## Water & Sewer Infrastructure Investments

*Repair History (3 Years)  
and Recent/Planned  
Capital Investments*







# Action Items

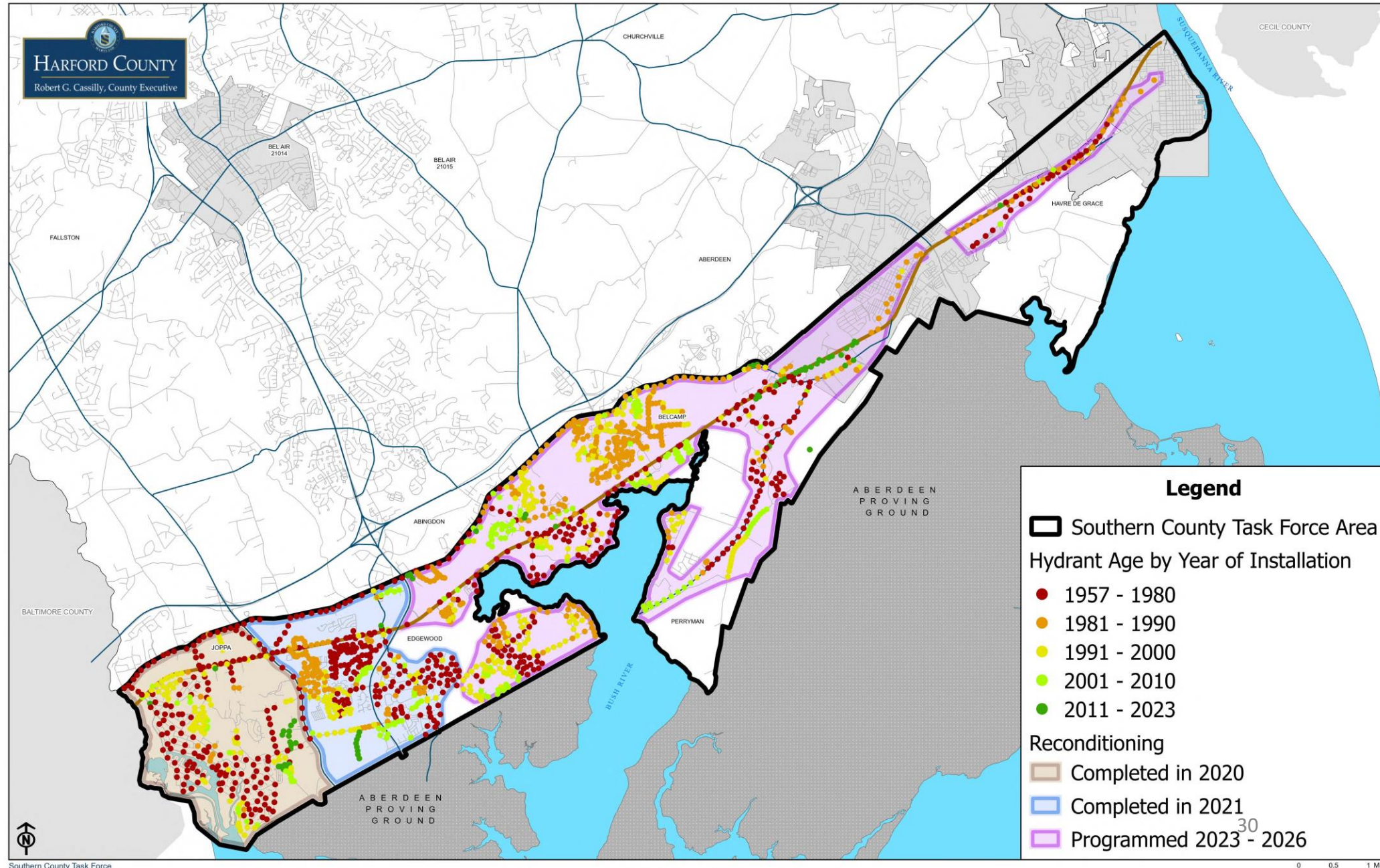
- **Ridgley's Reserve Water Booster Station**
  - Construction in-progress
  - Complete by December 2023
- **Harford Square Water and Sewer Extensions**
  - Design in-progress
  - Complete by Summer 2024
- **Joppatowne Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements**
  - Design in 2024
  - Construction in 2025-26



# SCTF – Department of Public Works

## Fire Hydrant Reconditioning

*Hydrant Age with Completed and Programmed Reconditioning Areas*



# Action Items

- Continue Investment in Fire Hydrant Reconditioning Program
  - Each hydrant – inspect, repair, lubricate, sandblast, prime and paint
  - Invest \$250,000 per year to recondition 500 hydrants per year
  - Balance of Task Force area programmed for 2023-2026





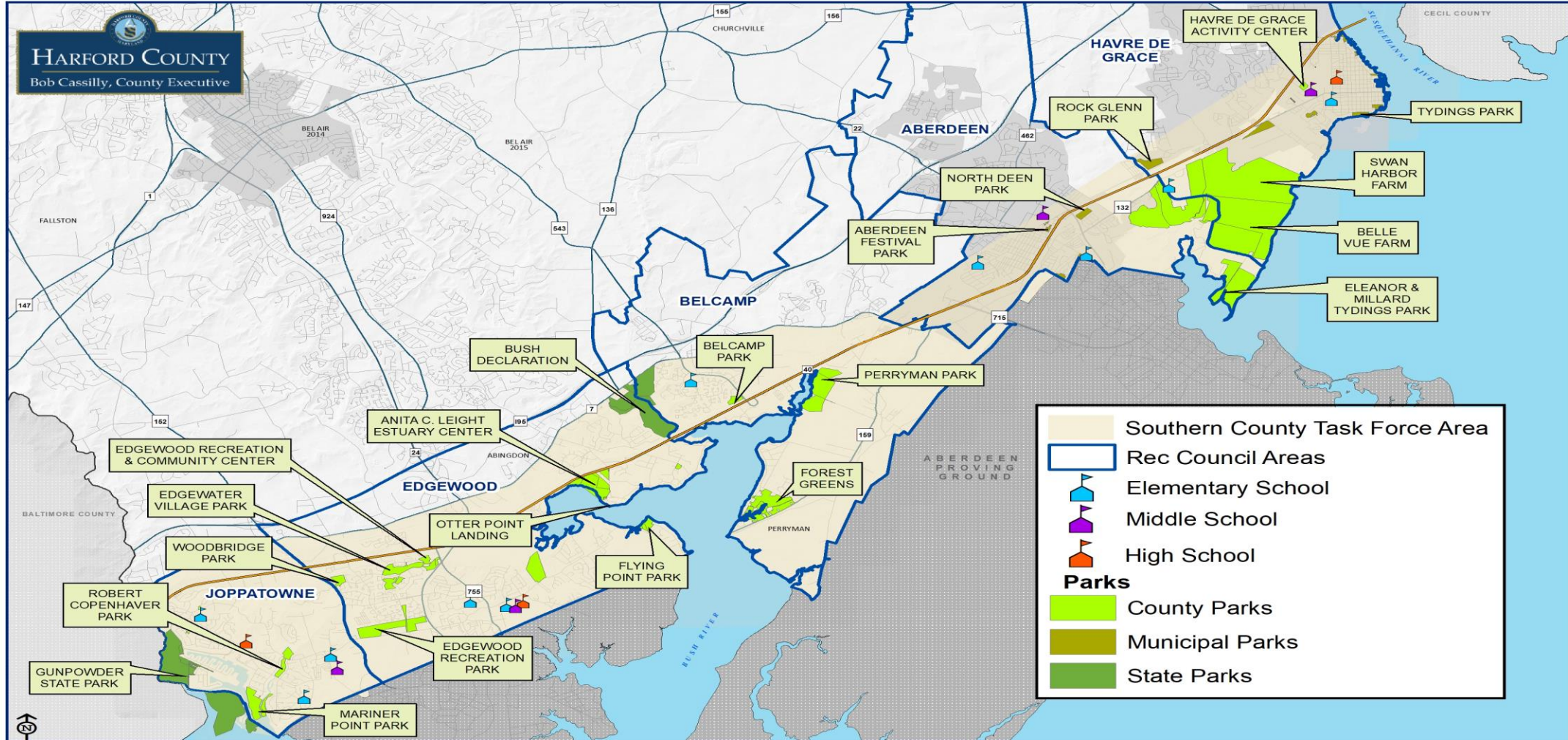
# Parks & Recreation

Paul Magness, Director  
Department of Parks & Recreation



## SCTF - Parks & Recreation

### Southern County Task Force - Current Recreation Sites





# Actions Items

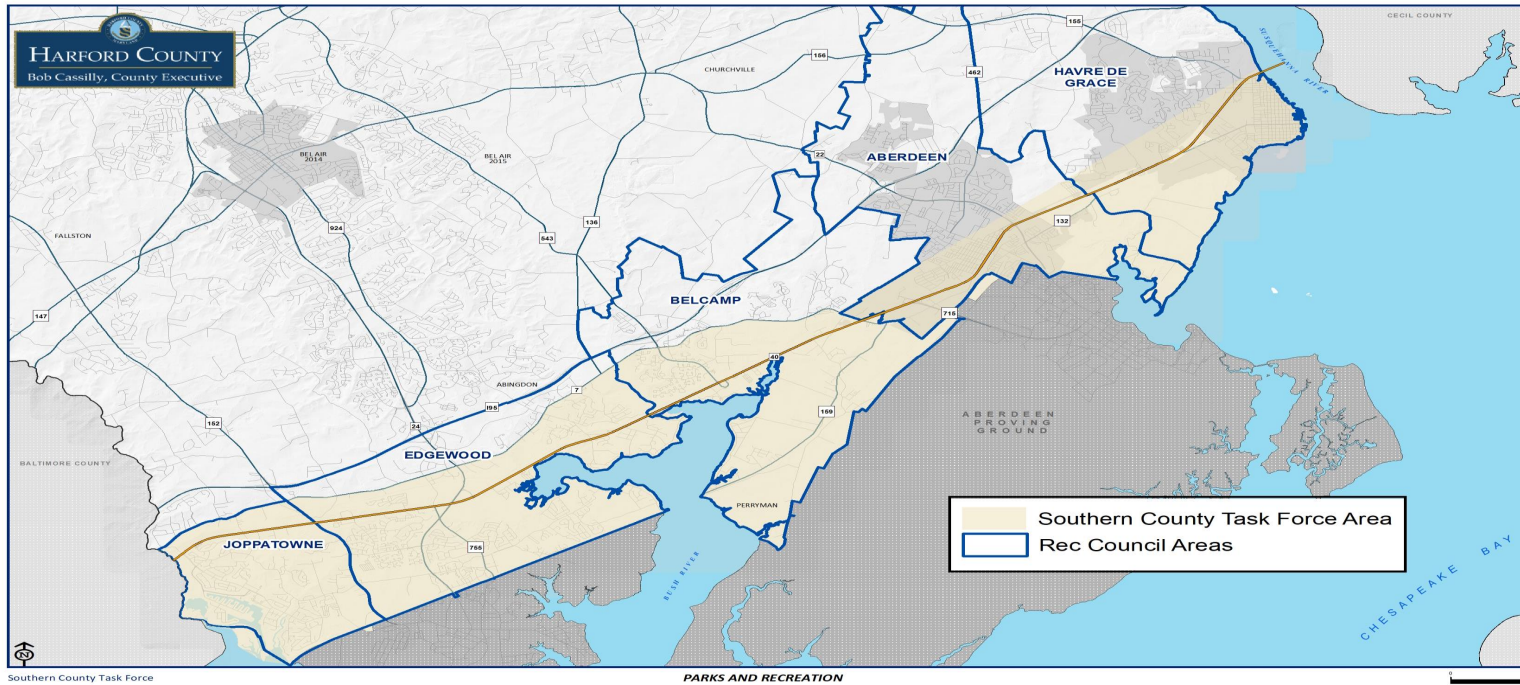
- Fund recreation center in Joppatowne
- Fund recreation center in Aberdeen





## Department of Parks & Recreation

### Southern County Task Force - Current Program Registrations



#### Department of Parks & Recreation Programs (FY 23)

- Edgewood – 10 programs – 18 registrants
- Estuary Center – 90 programs – 659 registrants
- Aberdeen – 9 programs – 58 registrants
- Swan Harbor – 2 programs – 25 registrants

#### Recreation Council Programs (2022 information)

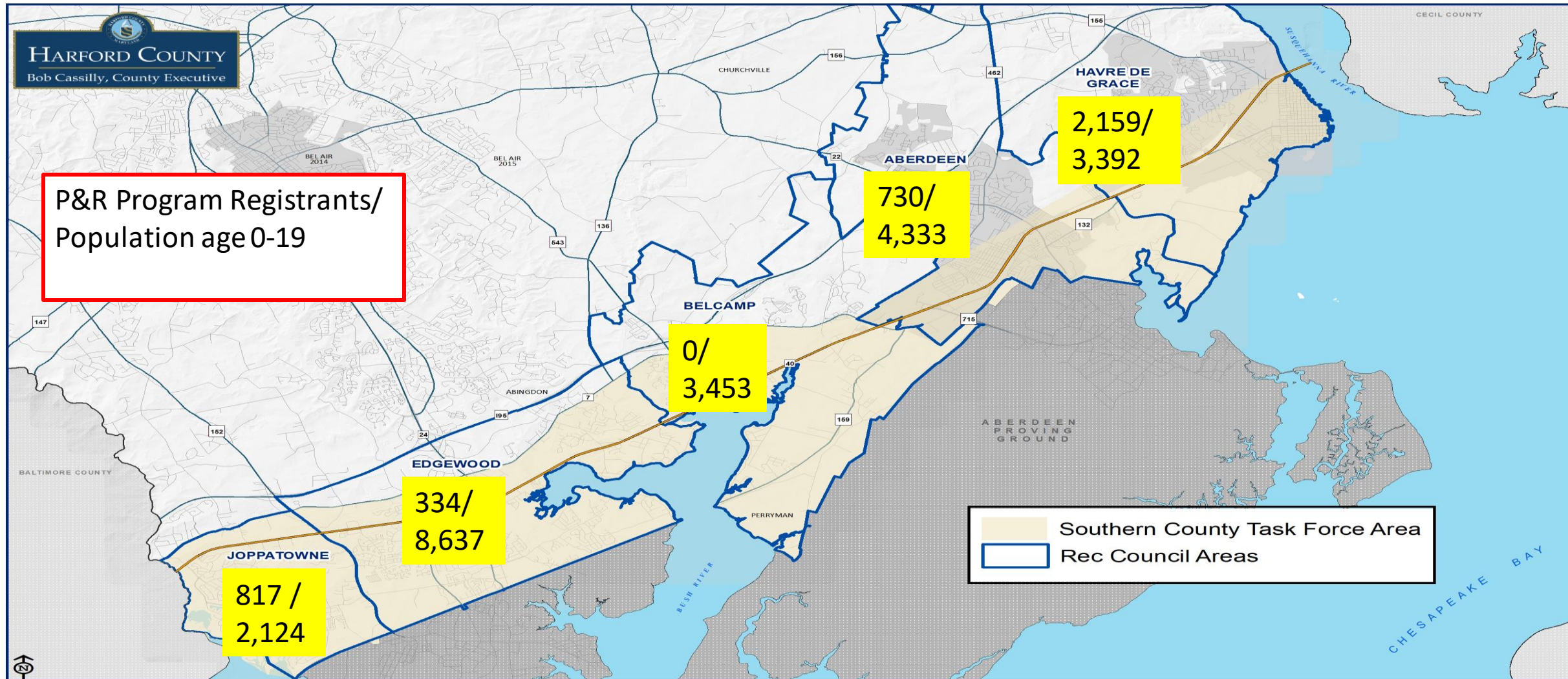
- Joppatowne – 9 programs – 817 registrants
- Edgewood – 7 programs – 334 registrants
- Belcamp – 0 programs –
- Aberdeen – 11 programs – 730 registrants
- Havre de Grace – 17 programs – 2,159 registrants





## Department of Parks & Recreation

### Southern County Task Force – Rec Council Areas





# Actions Items

- Identify obstacles to participation in **County Programs**
- Identify obstacles to youth participation in **Recreation Council Programs**
- Recruit volunteers for **Recreation Council Programs** (Program Chairs, Coaches, etc.)
  - ✓ County Government advertising campaign for social media
  - ✓ Work with Harford Community College to identify current and former student athletes who are interested in volunteering with Recreation Council Programs
- Explore funding options to compensate Program Chairs, Coaches, etc. in targeted areas



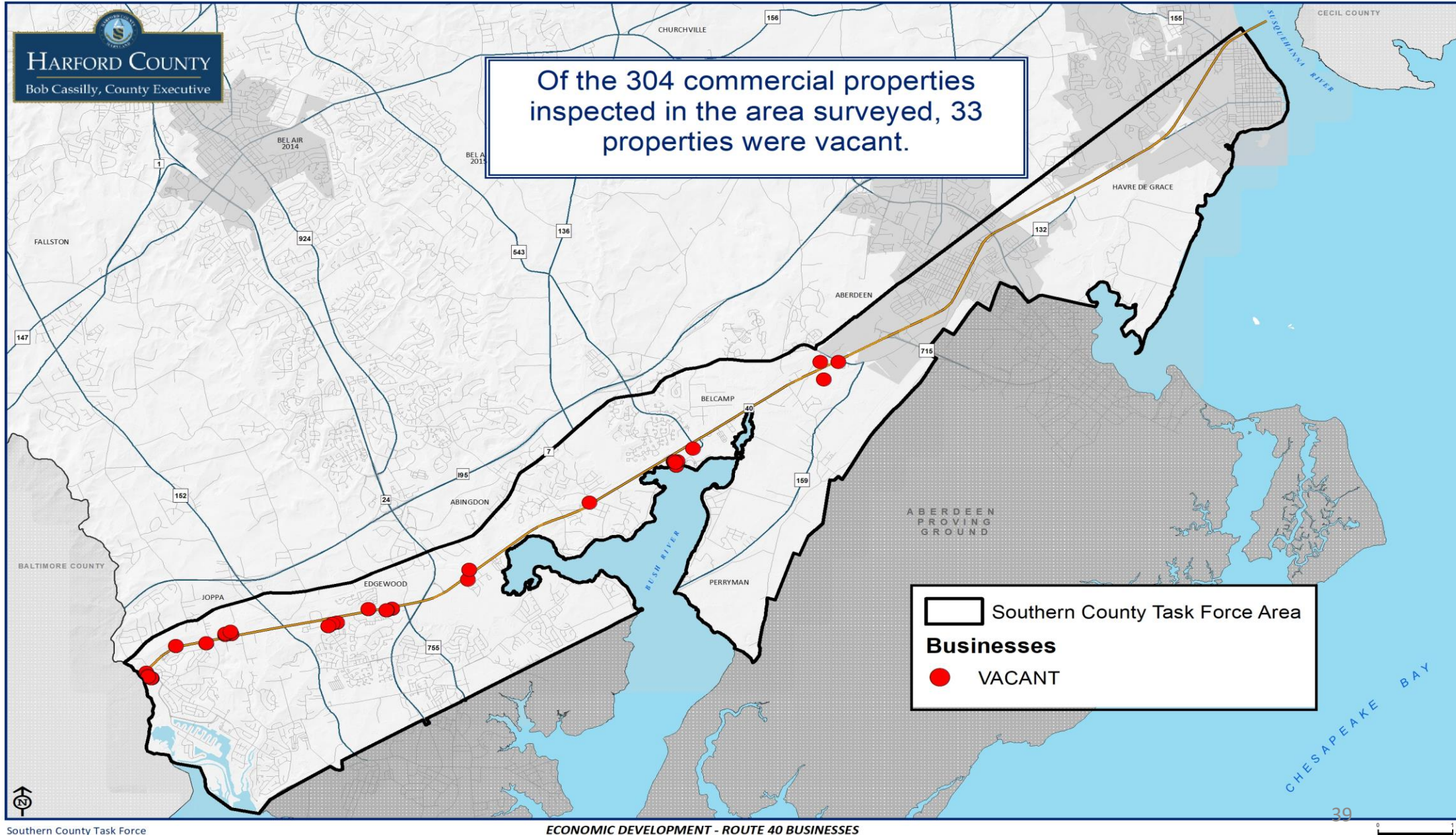
# Economic Development

Karen Holt, Director  
Department of Economic Development



# SCTF – Office of Economic Development

*Number of  
vacant  
businesses*





# Action Items

- **Revive dormant County business loan program** to assist small businesses with start up and expansion costs.
- Continue Economic Development's **expanded engagements with Route 40 business** community to identify business impediments & opportunities
- Support business through the new **Business Development Navigator**
- Promote **workforce development programs** (i.e. Workforce Technical Training Grant, Maryland Apprenticeship Program) in collaboration with HCC, HCPS, U of M.
- Create new **overlay districts** to provide local tax credits for additional employment





# Action Items (continued)

- Assist jurisdictions and non-profits to qualify for grants and loans through **Neighborhood Business Development Programs** administered by Md Dept. of Housing and Community Development, i.e. **Main Street Improvement Program** (See Ann. Code of Md., Housing and Community Development § 6-102; COMAR 05.13.02, et seq.)
- Working with Congressional delegation, secure federal grants and loans available to local businesses (e.g., **Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development Infrastructure Financing; Sustainable Communities Program; Defense Community Infrastructure Program**, etc.).

# Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP)

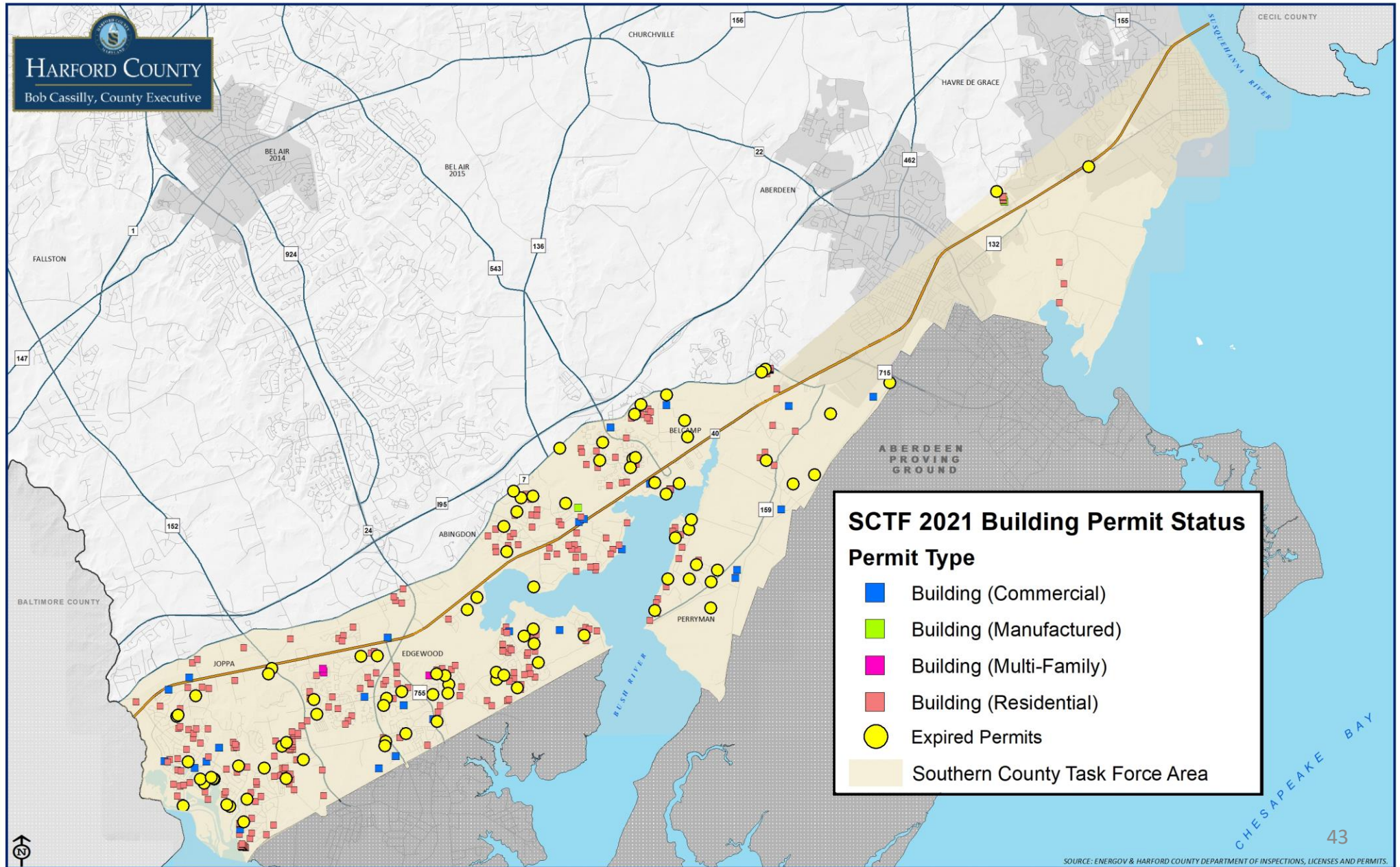
Richard Truitt, Director  
Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits



# SCTF - Inspections, Licenses and Permits

## FY 21 Building Permit Status

*Reflects the  
status of Building  
Permits applied  
for during FY 21  
in the Task Force  
Area.*







# Action Items - Building Permit Status

**Problem:** Expired permits can lead to unsafe structures and future complaints.

### DILP action items:

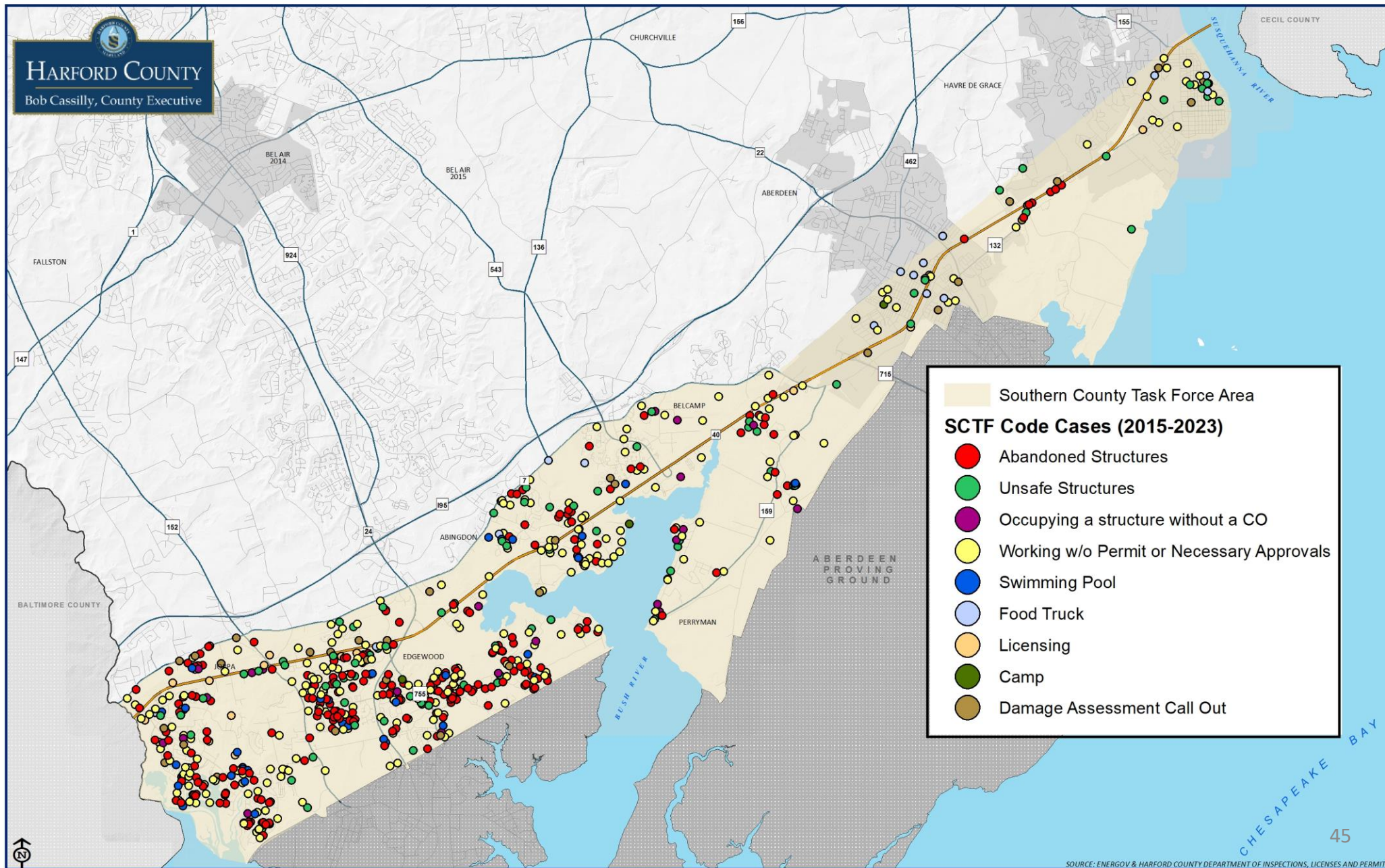
- Expand efforts to ensure projects are completed.
  - Contact property owners with expired permits to facilitate project completion.
  - Enhanced enforcement will be implemented for projects where the scope of the project can lead to unsafe conditions such as swimming pools and uncompleted structures left vacant.



# SCTF - Inspections, Licenses and Permits

## 2015-2023 DILP Enforcement Cases

*Reflects  
enforcement  
cases  
investigated by  
DILP within the  
Task Force  
Area.*





# Action Items - DILP Enforcement Cases

Update **County Livability Code** – (Chapter 162)

- Establish **minimum property standard** for rental units to promote health, safety and welfare.
  - Incorporate the updated 2021 International Property Maintenance Code.
- Implement mandatory **rental unit registration**
- Implement **abandoned structure registry** with points of contact.
- Use of **Civil Penalties** to encourage compliance with County Code.

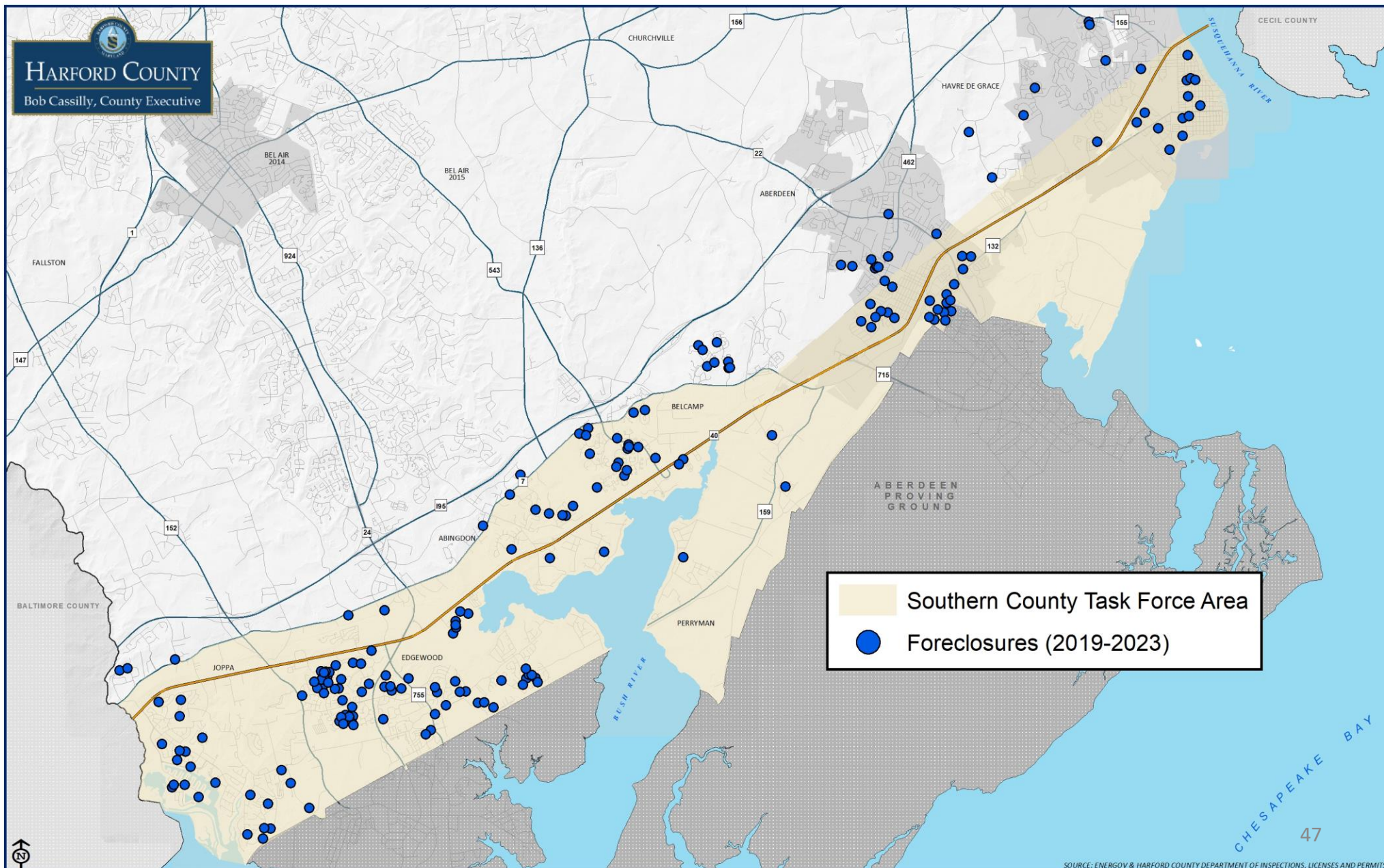




# SCTF - Inspections, Licenses and Permits

## 2019-2023 Residential Foreclosures

*Reflects  
foreclosure  
registrations  
submitted to the  
State Foreclosure  
Registry within the  
Task Force Area.*





# Action Items - Residential Foreclosures

### **Problem:**

- Foreclosed properties can be left vacant for extended periods.
- Lenders often do not inspect vacant properties so unsafe conditions are not identified, i.e. unprotected swimming pools, vandalism, lack of exterior maintenance.

### **DILP action items:**

- Continue periodic drive by inspections of properties to identify unsafe structures
- Utilize State Foreclosure Registry to identify point of contact to address unsafe conditions.

# Emergency Services

Richard Ayers, Director  
Department of Emergency Services



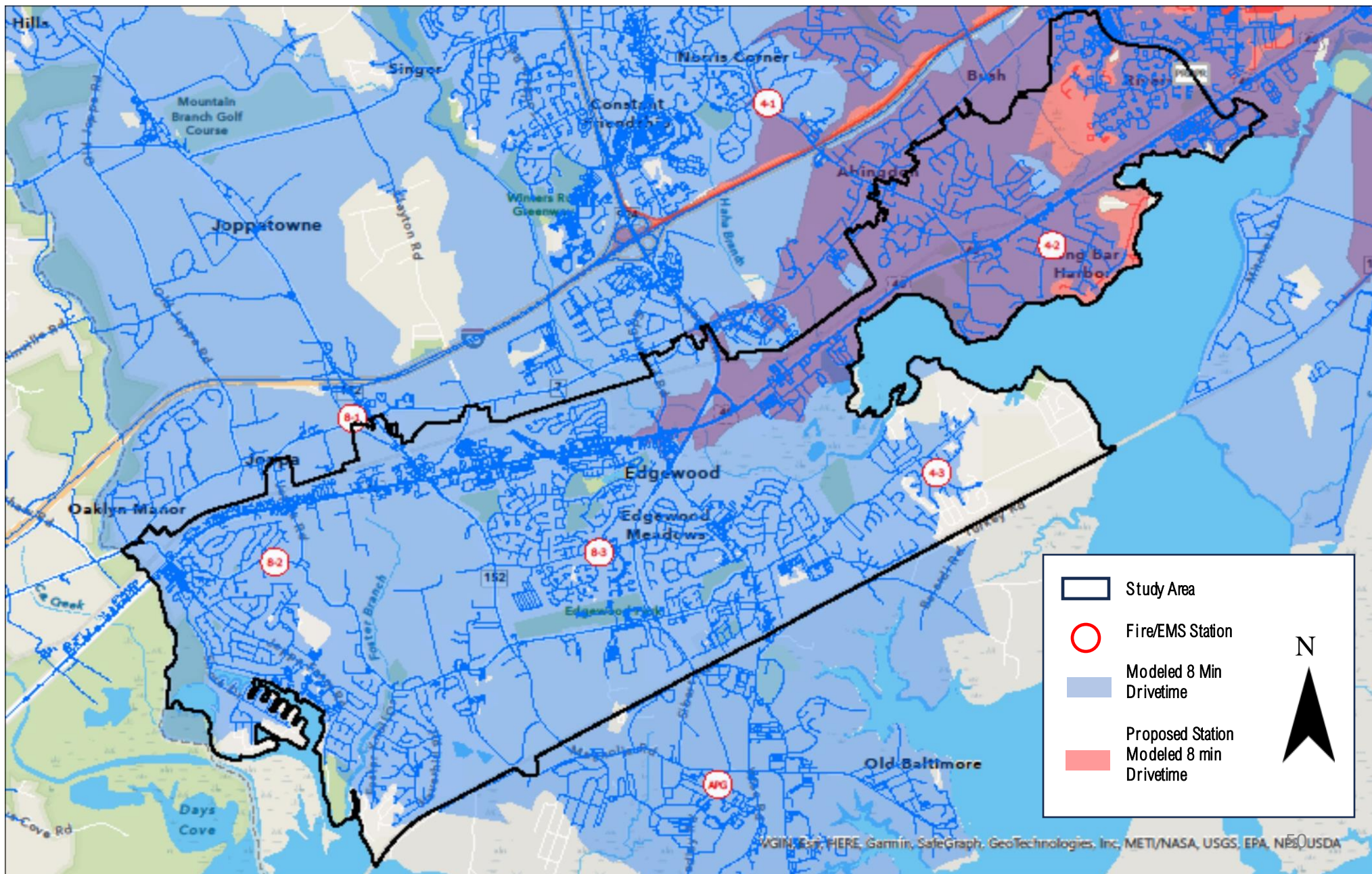


# SCTF – Emergency Services

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

*Projected EMS  
8-minute  
travel time  
service areas*

Current  
allocation of  
EMS resources  
is not adequate  
to support an  
8-minute  
response time.





# Action Items

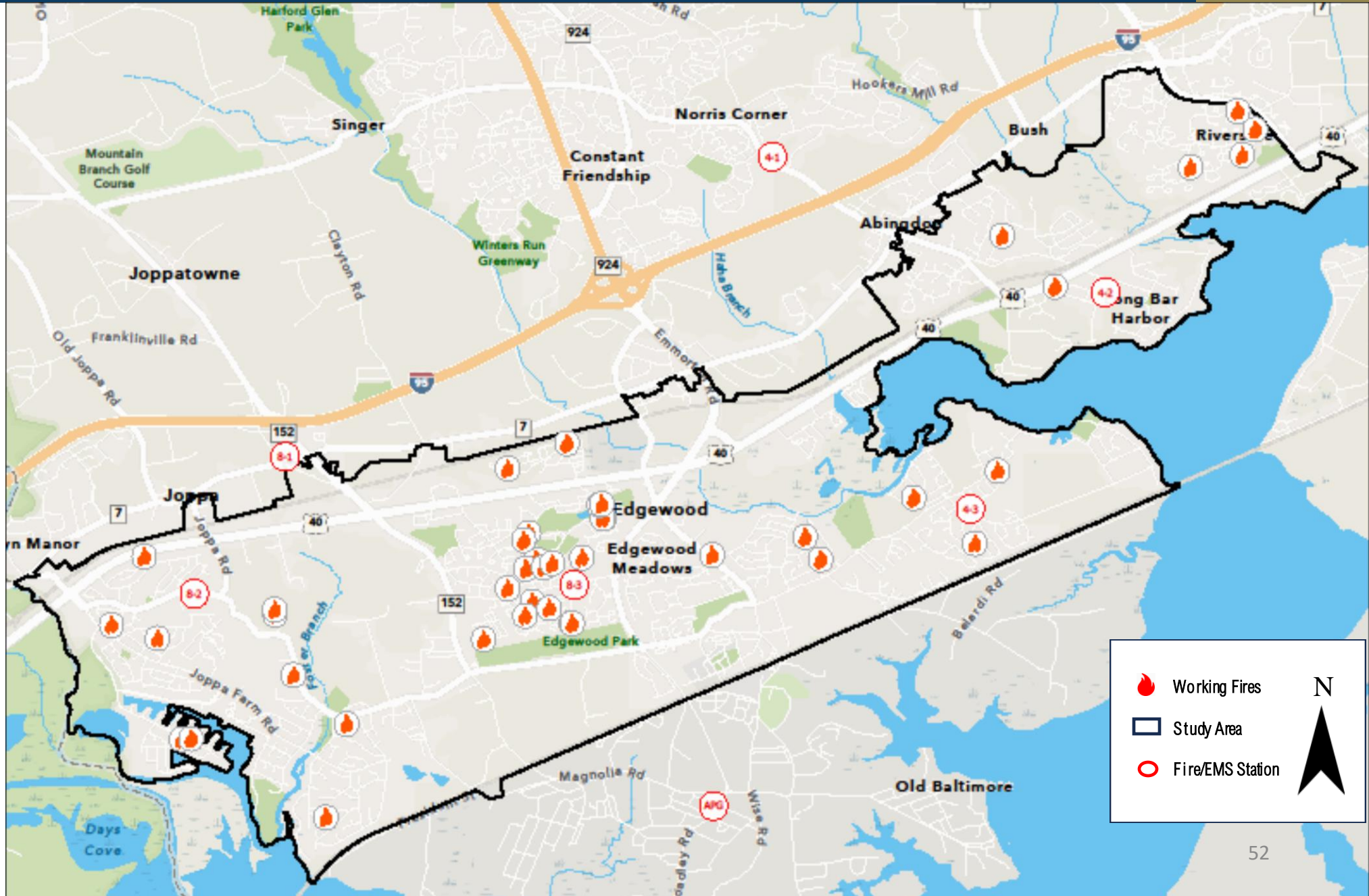
- Deploy additional County Medic Units:
  - Joppa (2) COMPLETED
  - Abingdon (2) COMPLETED
  - Riverside (1) PLANNED 2025
- Offer a “Prepare Because You Care” Program at the Edgewood Community Center





## Fire Calls 2021-2023

Map shows substantial number of working structure fires in SCTF area and burden on volunteer fire companies.







# Action Items

- County support Volunteer Fire Companies by funding **volunteer incentive programs**
- Coordinate with Volunteer Fire Companies to conduct **Neighbor Safety Walks**
- Support Volunteer Fire Companies through **Harford County funded volunteer recruitment advertising and recruitment drives**
- Work with HCPS to promote the **Volunteer Fire Cadet Program**

# Transit







# Action Items

- Obtain grant to construct new Transit Center along the Route 40 corridor
- Encourage location of **dialysis centers in SCTF area** to improve client access.
- Obtain grant funding to explore & implement **Micro-transit opportunities** in the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas.
- Utilize **GIS to develop enhancements to Transit Development Plan.**
- Continue funding and support to complete pre-designed and **engineered bus shelters** along the Rt. 40 corridor
- Rideshare coordinator to visit businesses and services to reintroduce **Transit and Share Tax Benefits** for employers